

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

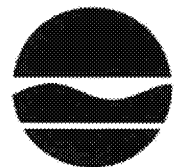
Deputy Commissioner

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Joe Martens
Commissioner

MAY 06 2013

Mr. Stanley J. Carey, Superintendent
Massapequa Water District
84 Grand Avenue
Massapequa, New York 11758

Dear Stan:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Massapequa Water District (MWD) regarding Operable Unit 3 (OU3) at the Northrop Grumman-Bethpage Facility.

MWD's interpretation of the requirements for the delineation of the leading edge of the OU3 plume is consistent with the remedy adopted in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) OU3 Record of Decision (ROD). As stated there (Element 10), "Additional monitoring wells will also be installed and monitored to allow completion of a three dimensional delineation of the leading edge of the OU3 plume and an assessment as to whether the remedy for the contaminated groundwater in this area needs to be further evaluated. This delineation and any subsequent evaluation to determine whether further remedial actions are needed are expected to be conducted in approximately 18-24 months."

MWD's interpretation of the requirements for the extraction and treatment in the hot spot area in OU3 is also accurate. This requirement, which is also contained in Element 10 is that "One or more groundwater extraction wells along with the necessary treatment will be installed in the groundwater plume emanating from OU3 (the exact number to be determined during the design phase). The wells will be located downgradient of the area(s) of elevated contaminant levels identified upgradient of Bethpage Water District Plant 4. This system will be designed to capture and treat the 'hot spot' area of the plume to the maximum extent practicable, at a minimum capturing and treating 90 percent of the mass of groundwater migrating from the elevated 'hot spot area'"

In addition, DEC generally agrees with MWD's interpretation of the additional requirements for the investigation of a potential hot spot in the western portion of the Operable Unit 2 (OU2) plume. Again, as stated in the March 2013 Fact Sheet announcing the OU3 ROD, this work is expected to proceed as follows: ". . . during the next two years, this area of the OU2 plume will be further delineated and, if warranted, a design will be prepared for a projected 1 to 3 recovery wells and the associated treatment system. Implementation of the pumping and treatment would follow. This delineation will be three dimensional in nature and any necessary groundwater extraction will be focused on where the hot spot is identified."

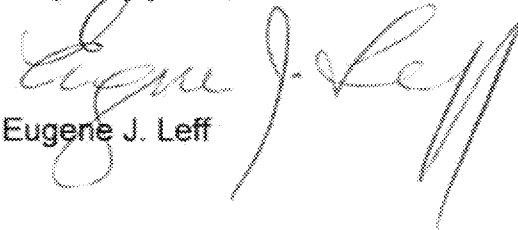
As we discussed at our September 2012 meeting, the installation of outpost wells to provide early warning for the MWD northwest well field is a requirement of the OU2 ROD, and is being prioritized. The potentially responsible parties (PRPs) have previously been informed this is a DEC priority and have acknowledged that, given the travel of the plume, the time to install these wells has arrived. DEC is developing a schedule for this work with the PRPs. By the way, while your letter mentions only the Navy, it should be noted that Northrop Grumman and the Town of Oyster Bay have also been identified as PRPs for OU3.

DEC anticipates scheduling a meeting with the PRPs identified for OU2 and OU3 in the near future to determine their willingness and ability to implement and fund the remedies, as well as to develop a detailed schedule for the work. We have advised the State's Federal liaison staff of the need for Navy funding for this project in the Federal Budget. Sequestration may have an impact, but we have not yet seen any assessment of that impact.

Your letter concludes with a request to continue MWD's active participation in the effort as it moves forward. As we discussed when we met on April 4, 2013 in Massapequa, DEC remains committed to making the process as transparent as possible and welcomes the participation of the MWD and other water districts. Documents are currently distributed to the water districts for review as they are received, and DEC plans to schedule a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee in the near future. These efforts will facilitate the transfer of information and the responses to comments and questions. MWD also requested quarterly update meetings and, while DEC is committed to holding update meetings, DEC prefers to avoid a fixed schedule given that there frequently is not enough new material to make a meeting every three months efficient. However, we will identify appropriate meeting times in the schedule of deliverables to be developed for the remedial design.

Please contact Mr. James B. Harrington – Bureau Director, Remedial Bureau A, of the Division of Environmental Remediation, at 518-402-9625, if you would like to discuss this further.

Very truly yours,


Eugene J. Leff

C: United States Senator, Charles Schumer
Congressman Peter King
George Pavlou, EPA
James B. Harrington, DEC
Lora Fly, Navy Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic
Richard Mach – Navy Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic
Edward Hannon, Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation

